Visit of Indian delegation to USA

1968. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegation visited United States of America in the month of June, 2009;

(b) if so, what subjects of mutual interest were discussed with them;

(c) the agreements reached during the visit and other details in this regard; and

(d) the assistance expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Commerce and Industry Minister led a delegation to the United States of America from June 16 to 20, 2009.

(b) During the visit, the Commerce and Industry Minister met Secretary of State, Commerce Secretary and United States Trade Representative. During the meetings, the Indian delegation discussed with the US side, issues of bilateral interest including the effect of economic downturn on the two economies, way ahead in the Doha Round and the ways and means for increasing bilateral trade and investment.

(c) No formal agreement was signed in any area.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c), above.

Export duty on iron-ore to States

1969. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the demands from certain States to pass on the export duty on iron-ore collected by the Union Government to the respective States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in country's exports

1970. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether shrinking world demand has affected India's handicrafts, gems and Jewellery, leather and textile exports severely during the past few months;

(b) whether India's exports contracted for the eighth successive month plunging 29.2 per cent in May, 2009 at $11.01 bn. from $15.55 bn. a year ago;

(c) whether imports also fell faster than exports declining by 39.3 per cent in May compared with a year ago; and

(d) if so, what interest aid is on cards for above mentioned sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the Union Budget 2009-10, it has already been announced that the provision of interest subvention of 2 per cent, on pre-shipment credit to employment oriented sectors, namely, Textiles including Handlooms, Handicrafts, Carpets, Leather, Gems and Jewellery, Marine Products and small and medium exports would be extended beyond the current deadline of September 30, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

Check on unfair imports and dumping

1971. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that unfair imports particularly dumping has directly affected our economy and industry;

(b) if so, whether Government has since taken any pro-active steps to check unfair imports particularly dumping;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of representations received by Government in this regard and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Unfair imports, particularly dumping causing injury to the domestic industry are checked by imposing anti-dumping duties on such imports. In order to counteract trade distortion caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry, the Government has set up the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) to conduct antidumping investigations and make recommendations to the Central Government for imposition of antidumping measures, wherever appropriate. The DGAD acts on the applications filed by the domestic industry with *prima-facie* evidence of dumping of goods, injury to the domestic industry and causal link between the dumped goods and injury to the domestic industry. Such petitions submitted by domestic industry are processed as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules made thereunder. A list of anti-dumping cases initiated in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, and findings issued in those cases is as under:—

Year	No. of fresh anti-dumping cases initiated (A)	Out of (A), no. of cases in which findings have been issued so far.
2007-08	13	13 (Final Findings)
2008-09	21	02 (Final Findings)
		15 (Preliminary Findings)
2009-10 (till 17.7.09)	05	-